

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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60

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-15 DRC-01 /119 W

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R 281610Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4323

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

UNCLAS LONDON 11172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ETRD

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: ACCEPTANCE OF VISBY AMENDMENTS TO
BRUSSELS CONVENTION

REF: STATE 190603

1. H. J. FELSON, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)
ADVISES HE HAS BEEN WORKING ON THIS QUESTION AND, AT THE
SAME TIME, ON THE UN COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE
LAW (UNCITRAL) EFFORT WHICH IS LEADING TO A CONVENTION
REPLACING THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION. THERE IS SOME INTER-
NAL UK INTEREST IN ACCEPTING THE VISBY AMENDMENT BECAUSE
IT "IS A STEP FORWARD" WHICH CAN BE MADE IN THE NEAR
FUTURE--WHEREAS THE UNCITRAL RESULTS CANNOT COME ABOUT
FOR OVER FIVE YEARS. FELSON IS AWAITING LEGAL ADVICE AS
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TO POSSIBILITY OF ACCEPTING VISBY AMENDMENT MERELY BY

PUBLISHING A STATUTORY INSTRUMENT. IT IS HELD BY SOME IN DTI THAT RATIFICATION PROCEDURES ARE NOT NECESSARY. LEGAL ADVICE IS ALSO BEING SOUGHT TO DETERMINE THE DEGREE TO WHICH ACCEPTANCE OF VISBY IS A RENUNCIATION OF THE HAGUE RULES. HMG IS PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY SINCE THEY DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE UPSTAGING THE LDC EFFORTS AT MAJOR REVISION WITHIN UNCITRAL.

2. FCO (N. SMITH) ADVISES THIS MATTER IS BEING HANDLED BY DTI AND TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE THERE IS NO INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED ACTION UNDERWAY TO RATIFY THE VISBY AMENDMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: DTI IS ANXIOUS TO KNOW THE STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE VISBY AMENDMENT IN THE USA.

ANNENBERG

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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